7/29/86 S 8895-1

WYOMING

VOL. 23 NO. 7 JULY 1986

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Apr. '86	May '86
Labor Force	252,673	256,212
Employment	225,324	232,291
Unemployment	27,349	23,921
Rate (Raw)	10.8	9.3
Rate (S.A.)	9.5	9.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.38	$14.04
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.7	41.4
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	7.1	7.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.43	$12.41
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	41.9	41.3
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	325.3	326.3
Denver (Bimonthly)		356.3
Year Change (U.S.)	+1.6	+1.6

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

In this issue of* Trends *be sure to see these articles

- Counties with Fluctuations of 300 or More Workers
- Illiteracy—The Most Formidable Barrier to Employment - Part Two
- Unemployment Rates from the Current Population Survey
- ACCRA Cost of Living Comparisons, First Quarter 1986

THE NATION

In May, after declining for two consecutive months, the number of unemployed in the U.S. was up 212,000 from April to 8.6 million. The civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted, stood at 7.3 percent, up from the April rate of 7.1 percent and was the same as the May 1985 rate of 7.3 percent. The U.S. had an average annual rate of 7.2 percent in 1985 and 7.5 percent in 1984. The rate thus far in 1986 has averaged 7.1 percent.

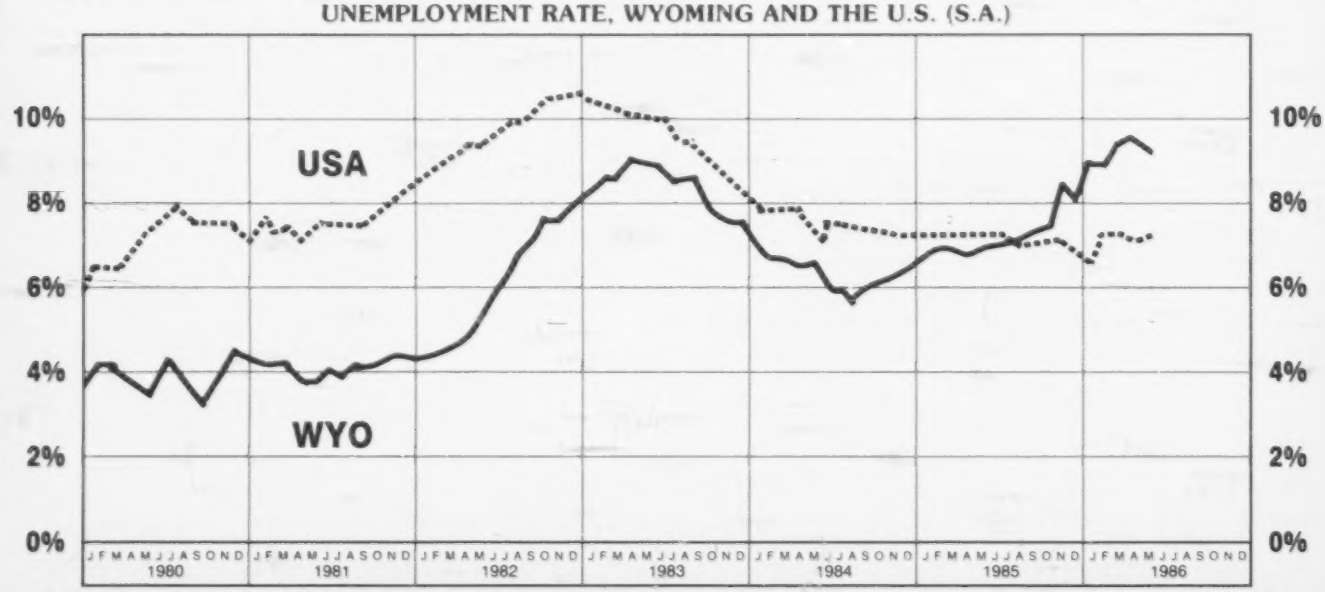
In May the lowest unemployment, 5.5 percent, was held by white men and women 20 years of age and over. The highest rate, 40.8 percent, was held by black youth 16-19 years of age.

IN WYOMING

The seasonal nature of the Wyoming economy came into sharp focus in May when unemployment declined sharply to 9.3 percent from 10.8 percent in April. The April

Continued on Page 2

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In Wyoming—Continued

rate ranked Wyoming fourth highest in the nation—behind only Louisiana, at 13.2 percent; Alaska, 11.4 percent, and Mississippi at 10.9 percent. This seasonal decline was belated in 1986, usually occurring in Wyoming in February or March.

Seasonally adjusted, the Wyoming May rate registered 9.1 percent, down from 9.5 percent in April, but continuing much higher than the May 1985 rate of 6.9 percent. Wyoming Job Service Center statistics indicated, on a statewide basis, a substantial over-the-month increase in May in both job openings received and placements made from an ever increasing pool of job applicants.

While the May labor force, statewide, at 256,212, was up less than one percentage point over-the-year, the employed labor force, total workers, declined by over 4,300.

While most (15) of the state's counties indicated annual labor force losses, there remained some growth areas. Sublette and Lincoln counties had the highest percent gains, while Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Laramie counties had the highest numerical gains in the labor force. Natrona County indicated the largest worker decline, almost 2,600, on an annual basis.

Industrial sectors with notable annual employment declines include oil & gas exploration and oil field services, retail trade, and transportation. The only noteworthy annual employment gains occurred in the services industry and government. Coal mining, the only growth sector in an otherwise depressed mineral industry, indicated an annual employment gain of approximately 500 workers in May.

AREA TRENDS

In spite of the seasonal drop in the statewide unemployment rate to a single digit level, double-digit unemployment rates prevailed in about half (11) of Wyoming's 23 counties. Big Horn County had the highest rate, 14.1 percent, followed by Uinta at 13.1 percent. Natrona County continued to have the largest number of jobseekers, with almost 4,200 unemployed and an unemployment rate of 11.7 percent. Albany and Laramie counties, again had the lowest unemployment rates of 5.5 and 5.7 percent, well below the seasonally unadjusted U.S. May rate of 7.0 percent.

COUNTIES WITH FLUCTUATIONS OF 300 OR MORE WORKERS

Recent figures from *WYOMING'S FOURTH QUARTER 1985 COVERED EMPLOYMENT REPORT* revealed there were ten counties with fluctuations of 300 or more workers compared to last year:

Natrona County had an employment loss of 2,441 which was a 7 percent decrease from a year ago. This was primarily due to 1,568 loss of workers in Mining, a 390 loss in Construction, and a 374 loss in Services. There was a slight gain of 109 in Retail Trade.

Carbon County's loss of 603 employees was due to 336 fewer workers in Mining, and 67 in Retail Trade.

Fremont County's loss of 567 workers was primarily due to decreases of 340 in Mining, 57 in Services, and 53 in Finance, Insurance & Real Estate.

Sheridan County's loss of 496 employees was primarily due to decreases of 264 in Construction, 151 in Retail Trade, and 113 in Mining.

Albany County lost 379 workers, primarily due to decreases of 293 in Mining, 57 in Manufacturing, and 45 in Services.

Campbell County's gain of 417 was due to 178 new workers in Services, 130 in Construction, and 120 in Mining.

Laramie County gained 813 workers. This was primarily due to increases of 376 in Construction, 325 in Retail Trade, and 193 in Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.

Sweetwater County had an employment gain of 835 which was a 5 percent increase from a year ago. Substantial increases were: 744 in Construction, 292 in Services, and 84 in Retail Trade. These gains were slightly offset by a 445 loss in Mining.

Sublette County had the second largest employment growth in Wyoming of 1,356. This was primarily due to an increase of 1,195 in Construction at Exxon's LaBarge Project. Another substantial increase was 119 in Services.

Lincoln County had the largest employment growth in Wyoming of 4,216. This was primarily due to an increase of 3,565 in Construction at Exxon's LaBarge Project. Another substantial increase was 603 in Retail Trade.

ILLITERACY—THE MOST FORMIDABLE BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT

(This is part two of a three-part series on Illiteracy from the National Governors' Association Labor Notes)

Despite a rebound in the early 1980's, the writing skills of American students in 1984 remain poor. Writing performance among the nation's 17-year-olds declined from 1974 to 1978, then recovered in 1984, but generally was inadequate. Writing by 13-year-olds also improved from 1979 to 1984. Nine-year-old achievement showed inconsistent trends across the decade, but the majority of those assessed seemed unable to write an adequate paper. It was also noted that if one accepts the assumption that writing is a reflection of thinking, then the problem may be more serious.

The 1984 findings were based on a survey of 15,000 public school pupils across the country. These findings were compared to the results for similar surveys conducted in 1974 and 1979. In all, the three surveys involved writing samples of 95,000 students.

The 1984 survey found that: 76 percent of the 17-year-olds were unable to write an adequate imaginative description. Given the same task and evaluated against the same criteria, 83 percent of the 13-year-olds and 95 percent of the 9-year-olds were unable to respond adequately; 62 percent of the 17-year-olds, 81 percent of the 13-year-olds, and 97 percent of the 9-year-olds failed to perform adequately when asked to write a piece of informative prose and 80 percent of the 17-year-olds and 90 percent of the 13-year-olds were unable to respond adequately when asked to write a persuasive letter. The 9-year-olds were given a simpler persuasive writing task; still, 66 percent performed inadequately.

Between 1974 and 1984, students reported that their teachers were giving increased attention to writing instructions. But students also reported that they still do very little writing in school, averaging only three or four papers over a six-week period across all their subjects, and their writing abilities remain generally weak.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FROM THE CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY

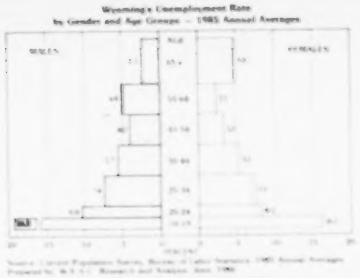
The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released the 1985 annual average Current Population Survey (CPS) data. The CPS, because of its timeliness, is the source most often utilized to monitor unemployment and is considered the cornerstone of the labor market information system in the United States.

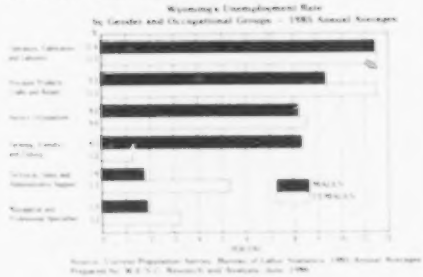
The CPS is a sample of households designed to produce data for major regions of the nation and the nation as a whole. Currently, about 60,000 households are included in the sample nationally. In Wyoming the sample includes approximately 765 households. During the week including the 19th of the month, interviewers contact each household in the sample in order to complete the CPS questionnaire.

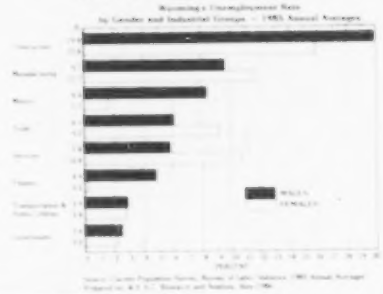
During the interview, the respondent is considered unemployed only if they meet all of the following criteria:

- they had no employment during the survey week
- they were available for work at that time and
- they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the prior four weeks.

The following graphs illustrate 1985 annual average unemployment rates from the Current Population Survey. Because of Wyoming's small sample size, the estimated unemployment rates used to create the graphs will inevitably differ from a complete count of all unemployed persons. Thus, the data should be used with caution.







ACCRA* COST OF LIVING COMPARISONS – FIRST QUARTER 1986

	ALL ITEMS	GROCERIES	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
Component Index Weights	100%	17%	22%	11%	13%	7%	30%
U.S. Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wyoming Cities:							
Casper	98.7	102.5	88.0	94.4	97.2	116.6	102.6
Evanston	101.1	105.0	100.9	87.0	99.8	112.5	102.1
Gillette	100.8	107.2	93.4	86.0	102.7	109.4	105.0
Neighboring Cities:							
Billings, MT	106.1	106.1	119.8	88.3	93.4	115.4	106.0
Denver, CO	108.0	106.9	129.8	76.9	119.1	110.4	98.7
Omaha, NE	96.7	90.6	97.2	88.6	98.4	98.5	101.7
Rapid City, SD	94.2	106.4	84.5	77.4	97.3	119.2	93.5
Salt Lake City, UT	101.5	103.3	96.5	87.3	109.0	92.7	108.0
Highest U.S. City	142.0	143.2	186.9	199.9	127.7	161.2	122.3
	New York N.Y.	St. Thomas VI	New York N.Y.	New York N.Y.	San Diego CA	New York N.Y.	St. Thomas VI
Lowest U.S. City	88.0	84.8	70.9	51.6	72.4	71.0	87.2
	Cokeville, TN McMinnville, TN	Mason City IA	Clarinda IA	Seattle WA	Mt. Vernon OH	Paris TN	Canton OH

Source: ACCRA American Chamber of Commerce Research Association

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTERTAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
April 1986	326.3	309.4	358.5	272.9	206.4	305.7	429.7
Annual % Change	1.6	2.8	2.9	3.5	0.5	- 4.9	7.6

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	MAY 1986 [1]	APR 1986 [1]	MAY 1985 [2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	256,212	252,673	254,717	1.4	0.6
Unemployment	23,921	27,349	18,083	- 12.5	32.3
Employed Labor Force	232,291	225,324	236,634	3.1	- 1.8
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	193,400	185,590	192,398	4.2	0.5
b. Agriculture[3]	10,522	9,593	10,747	9.7	- 2.1
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	9.3% 9.1%*	10.8% 9.5%*	7.1% 6.9%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	7.0% 7.3%*	7.0% 7.1%*	7.0% 7.3%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	4.2%	4.6%	2.4%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 581.26	$ 599.65	$ 594.00	- 3.1	- 2.1
Average Weekly Hours	41.4	41.7	43.2	- 0.7	- 4.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.04	$ 14.38	$ 13.75	- 2.4	2.1
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	37,182	45,093	23,787	- 17.5	56.3
a. Initial	3,983	5,624	2,307	- 29.2	72.6
Weeks Compensated	34,466	38,530	21,228	- 10.5	62.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 5,554,582	$ 6,184,228	$ 3,074,872	- 10.2	80.6
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 160.86	$ 160.18	$ 144.44	0.4	11.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	4,943	4,166	4,208	18.7	17.5
Non-Ag. Openings Received	4,212	2,248	3,918	87.4	7.5
Non-Ag. Placements	2,692	1,884	3,084	42.9	- 12.7
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 512.53	$ 520.82	$ 516.78	- 1.6	0.8
Average Weekly Hours	41.3	41.9	43.5	- 1.4	- 5.1
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.41	$ 12.43	$ 11.88	- 0.2	4.5
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	326.3	325.3	321.3	0.3	1.6
Producer Prices, All Commodities	299.2	297.9	309.8	0.4	- 3.4
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	309.4	308.5	301.0	0.3	2.8

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	MAY 1986	APR 1986	MAY 1985	%CHANGE APR-MAY	%CHANGE MAY-MAY	MAY 1986	APR 1986	MAY 1985	MAY 1986	APR 1986	MAY 1985
Statewide	256,212	252,673	254,717	1.4	0.6	23,921	27,349	18,083	9.3	10.8	7.1
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									9.1	9.5	6.9
Albany	15,727	15,767	16,056	- 0.3	- 2.0	863	986	804	5.5	6.3	5.0
Big Horn	5,004	4,866	5,088	2.8	- 1.7	707	702	460	14.1	14.4	9.0
Campbell	20,034	20,142	19,035	- 0.5	5.2	2,039	2,383	1,244	10.2	11.8	6.5
Carbon	8,318	8,332	8,838	- 0.2	- 5.9	906	1,109	763	10.9	13.3	8.6
Converse	6,544	6,541	6,637	0.0	- 1.4	824	907	606	12.6	13.9	9.1
Crook	3,020	3,032	3,038	- 0.4	- 0.6	228	323	165	7.6	10.7	5.4
Fremont	16,859	16,893	17,504	- 0.2	- 3.7	2,115	2,395	1,902	12.5	14.2	10.9
Goshen	6,235	6,032	6,503	3.4	- 4.1	375	481	348	6.0	8.0	5.4
Hot Springs	3,024	3,057	3,244	- 1.1	- 6.8	281	332	188	9.3	10.9	5.8
Johnson	3,215	3,172	3,511	1.4	- 8.4	316	360	233	9.8	11.4	6.6
Laramie	35,270	35,250	34,226	0.1	3.1	2,003	2,508	2,047	5.7	7.1	6.0
Lincoln	9,463	9,376	8,083	0.9	17.1	888	1,067	659	9.4	11.4	8.2
Natrona	35,792	36,060	37,078	- 0.7	- 3.5	4,189	4,589	2,880	11.7	12.7	7.8
Niobrara	1,728	1,670	1,837	3.5	- 5.9	183	201	178	10.6	12.0	9.7
Park	14,196	13,262	13,610	7.0	4.3	1,472	1,592	865	10.4	12.0	6.4
Platte	3,778	3,660	4,006	3.2	- 5.7	306	393	284	8.1	10.7	7.1
Sheridan	13,235	12,829	13,731	3.2	- 3.6	1,006	1,129	1,035	7.6	8.8	7.5
Sublette	3,964	3,678	3,342	7.8	18.6	384	324	147	9.7	8.8	4.4
Sweetwater	22,316	21,803	21,251	2.4	5.0	1,826	2,021	1,317	8.2	9.3	6.2
Teton	8,001	6,989	7,792	14.5	2.7	576	712	530	7.2	10.2	6.8
Uinta	12,130	11,937	11,611	1.6	4.5	1,593	1,809	849	13.1	15.2	7.3
Washakie	4,985	4,895	5,107	1.8	- 2.4	501	569	345	10.1	11.6	6.8
Weston	3,374	3,430	3,588	- 1.6	- 6.0	338	456	234	10.0	13.3	6.5
United States									7.0	7.0	7.0
United States - Seasonally adjusted									7.3	7.1	7.3

* The data contained in this table updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAY 1986[2]	APR 1986[3]	MAY 1985	APR 1986	MAY 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to MAY 1986	to MAY 1986
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	202.0	196.3	206.5	2.9	- 2.2
Manufacturing	8.1	7.8	7.7	3.8	5.2
Durable Goods	3.9	3.7	3.7	5.4	5.4
Nondurable Goods	4.2	4.1	4.0	2.4	5.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	1.0	0.9	1.0	11.1	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	193.9	188.5	198.8	2.9	- 2.5
Mining	22.6	22.5	24.9	0.4	- 9.2
Contract Construction	15.2	13.5	16.4	12.6	- 7.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	14.7	14.6	14.8	0.7	- 0.7
Railroad Transportation	3.0	3.0	2.4	0.0	25.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.4	5.3	5.8	1.9	- 6.9
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.4	6.4	6.6	0.0	- 3.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	43.3	42.9	45.9	0.9	- 5.7
Wholesale Trade	9.1	9.3	9.4	- 2.2	- 3.2
Retail Trade	34.2	33.6	36.4	1.8	- 6.0
Food Stores	5.0	4.9	5.4	2.0	- 7.4
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	6.7	5.7	6.2	17.5	8.1
Eating & Drinking Places	12.4	11.9	12.9	4.2	- 3.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.9	7.9	8.0	0.0	- 1.3
Services	34.2	32.7	33.8	4.6	1.2
Personal Services	2.0	2.1	1.9	- 4.8	5.3
Medical & Other Health Services	6.8	6.8	6.2	0.0	9.7
Government	56.0	54.4	55.0	2.9	1.8
Federal Government	8.1	7.1	8.0	14.1	1.3
State & Local Government	48.0	47.3	47.1	1.5	1.9
State Government	14.1	14.0	13.6	0.7	3.7
Local Government	33.9	33.3	33.6	1.8	0.9

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	MAY 1986[2]	APR 1986[3]	MAY 1985	APR 1986	MAY 1985
	Total	Total	Total	to MAY 1986	to MAY 1986
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	30.5	33.6	0.3	- 8.9
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.5	29.1	32.5	1.4	- 9.2
Mining	3.6	3.7	4.7	- 2.7	- 23.4
Oil & Gas Extraction	3.4	3.5	4.3	- 2.9	- 20.9
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	- 50.0
Contract Construction	1.9	1.7	2.1	11.8	- 9.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.9	1.9	2.1	0.0	- 9.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.7	8.7	9.8	0.0	- 11.2
Wholesale Trade	2.9	3.0	3.3	- 3.3	- 12.1
Retail Trade	5.8	5.8	6.4	0.0	- 9.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.0	- 5.9
Services	5.5	5.4	5.8	1.9	- 5.2
Government	6.3	6.1	6.3	3.3	0.0
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	5.6	5.4	5.6	3.7	0.0
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.7	30.1	30.3	2.0	1.3
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.6	29.0	29.2	2.1	1.4
Contract Construction	1.8	1.6	1.6	12.5	12.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	3.4	3.4	3.2	0.0	6.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	6.6	6.5	6.9	1.5	- 4.3
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	- 12.5
Retail Trade	5.9	5.8	6.1	1.7	- 3.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.2	5.2	1.9	1.9
Government	10.6	10.4	10.4	1.9	1.9
Federal Government	2.6	2.6	2.5	0.0	4.0
State & Local Government	7.9	7.8	7.9	1.3	0.0

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* recently won First Prize in the category of Monthly Reports at a recent meeting of the Interstate Conference of Employment Security Agencies, Inc.

Interstate Conference
of Employment Security Agencies, Inc.
Labor Market Information
Publication Award
1986
FIRST PRIZE
is presented to
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concerning labor market information.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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